



Design/Build Competition Guidelines

REGISTER | www.dallasbarknbuild.org/competition

QUESTIONS | dallasbarknbuild@gmail.com

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SUMMARY

Bark + Build is a design/build competition of original, one-of-a-kind pet homes created by professional teams consisting of licensed architects and contractors. The built designs will be on display at SPCA from **November 19th - December 23rd**. A scaled 3D model will be displayed at North Park along with the SPCA Home for Holiday booth. All the homes will be available for online raffle with all proceeds going to SPCA of Texas. To learn more about SPCA of Texas and their work, please visit www.spca.org.

TEAMS





Twenty (20) professional team slots are available for the 2026 AIA|TEXO Bark + Build Design/Build Competition and are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Professional teams must consist of one (1) licensed architect or architectural design firm and one (1) licensed contractor or contractor firm. Teams shall register online at www.dallasbarknbuild.org/competition.

REGISTRATION COST

Professional team registration fee is \$550

[#DallasBarkNBuild](https://www.instagram.com/dallasbarknbuild)

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

May 14	Kick Off Party at SPCA of Texas (6 - 7:30pm)	
May 15	Online Team Registration Opens	
June 10	Online Team Registration Closes (6pm)	
June 11	Team Captain's Meeting - REQUIRED PARTICIPATION @ AIA 6pm-7:30pm	
Aug 3	Preliminary Design Submittal Due (5pm) - REQUIRED DEADLINE	
Aug 10	Preliminary Design Review Response Due Back to Teams & Construction Start	
Sept 3	Team Happy Hour Location TBD	
Oct 6	Final Design Packet including 3D Print file, for those that need printing assistance Due (5pm) - REQUIRED DEADLINE	
Nov 16	Money Shot photo due (5pm) - REQUIRED DEADLINE	
Nov 19 - Dec 23	SPCA Display Homes- REQUIRED DEADLINE	
Nov 27	3D Models Drop off date (Displayed through Dec 23 @ North Park)	
Dec 4	GALA TEXO	
Jan 8	Bark & Build Awards (6pm) SPCA	

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COMPETITION GUIDELINES

We encourage teams to create original, fun, interesting and one-of-a-kind designs that will be enjoyed by dogs, cats, and people alike! Below are the minimum guidelines that all competition entries must meet. If any home does not meet the below criteria, the team will be asked to re-design, re-build their home or the home may be removed from the competition and/or display at SPCA.

Design and Construction

- All pet homes must provide a safe and comfortable shelter for animals.
- Homes will not expose animals to harm via toxic materials, exposed nails, rough edges, etc.
- All homes must be designed to accommodate removable bedding.
- All homes designed for outdoor categories or use must be built with exterior-grade materials and provide a sheltered entry and means to keep the floor of the home dry from natural elements, such as floor being raised slightly off the ground.
- The Team Captain's meeting in June is mandatory attendance. The team captains for both the architect and the contractor teams should be present at the meeting. If Team Captains are unable to attend, someone else from their company needs to attend as a representative.

Delivery of Homes

- A delivery schedule will be sent out to team captains 2 weeks before the installation date. Teams are required to deliver at the time scheduled.
- The delivery entrance for 3D Print drop off is between Drybar and Victoria's Secret on the east side of NorthPark Center. Teams will need to check in with a Bark + Build Committee members.
- Homes must be completely assembled with plexiglass prior to entering/installing in SPCA.
- SPCA will not assist in any unloading or moving of homes. Homes to be taken to the SPCA loading dock, more details to come.

Display at SPCA

- The homes are likely to be touched by visitors. All design elements are to be firmly attached, avoid sharp edges or corners, and avoid the use of unfinished materials.
- All openings 4" or larger must be covered by a minimum of ¼" thick plexiglass and securely attached with mechanical fasteners. Teams should incorporate the plexiglass into the overall design and avoid creating an independent enclosure around the home.
- All doors and/or operable openings must be fixed in the open or closed position with mechanical fasteners. If fixed open, openings must be covered by plexiglass.
- Any operable pieces fixed in an open position must fit within the size requirements of the category.
- Any homes delivered for display without plexiglass installed at the time of arrival will not be allowed to be set at SPCA until installed. Contact AIA for reuse of last year's recycled plexi. (FIRST COME FIRST SERVED)
- All staging of houses (accessories, etc.) must be complete before the home is moved into SPCA.
- Fake plants are permitted during the exhibition at SPCA. If the design includes an area for plants, they may be added after the home is removed from SPCA.
- Homes may only have NorthPark, SPCA of Texas, and AIA|TEXO sanctioned signage. Sanctioned signage will be created and placed by the SPCA of Texas and AIA|TEXO staff only. Teams may not create, display, or add any signage in or on their homes displaying any company names or logos. This includes products placed inside the home that include names and logos.
- Should homes or plexiglass be damaged while on display, SPCA of Texas will contact the team captains. It is the responsibility of the team captains to ensure the home is repaired within 24 hours of notification. Failure to repair or replace damaged components can result in the home being removed from display.

If these guidelines are not met at the time of delivery, the homes will not be accepted for display and could result in elimination from the design/build competition and will be ineligible for awards.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

At the time of registration, each team will select their preferred design category. Entries are first-come, first-serve, and the category will be closed once the maximum number of entries has been received. Please have a backup design category selected before submitting your online team registration.

Big Dog (Large) - Four (4) Entries Available (Outdoor)

Designs should feature king-sized concepts with large dogs in mind.

Size: 5' wide x 5' high x 5' long (max)

Weight: 450lb (max)

Furr-niture (Medium) - Four (4) Entries Available (Indoor)

Designs should combine furniture-like aesthetic with the functionality of a doghouse, cat condo, or cat/dog combination.

Size: 3' wide x 4' high x 4' long (max)

Weight: 350lb (max)

Playful Pals (Medium) - Four (4) Entries Available (Indoor or Outdoor)

Designs should embrace and feature structures where play is the primary focus for your favorite feline or Fido.

Size: 3' wide x 4' high x 4' long (max)

Weight: 350lb (max)

Teacup Pup (Small) - Four (4) Entries Available (Indoor or Outdoor)

Designs should feature big-dog creativity in a pint-sized package.

Size: 3' wide x 3' high x 3' long (max)

Weight: 200lb (max)

Cat Condo (Small) - Four (4) Entries Available (Indoor)

Designs should embrace the active, agile, and curious nature of cats.

Size: 2' wide x 5' high x 2' long (max)

Weight: 200lb (max)

Size

Homes will be limited to the maximum dimensions indicated in your design/build category. Any size within the maximum size range will be deemed acceptable, pending design review approval. Please note that each home should be designed to fit through a standard 3'-0" door, if possible.

Weight

Homes cannot exceed the maximum weight limit indicated in your design/build category. Please take into consideration that your team is responsible for transportation and placing your home. Please also consider the feasibility of transportation and relocation by the Bark & Build Team.

Cost

To ensure fair and equal competition, home material costs should not exceed **\$3,000**. The cost limit is set to reduce significant cost gaps, establish fair and equal pricing to help ensure an equal playing field for all Bark + Build competition.

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PRELIMINARY DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

All teams must upload a completed preliminary design form to **their team folder within the Bark + Build Google Drive** for review, no later than **August 3rd at 5pm**. You must use the provided form, no exceptions. Any teams that submit preliminary designs, other than on the AIA|TEXO approved form, will have their entry returned and may be eliminated from the design/build competition if they do not resubmit on the approved form by the deadline. The preliminary design package must include:

- o Completed Preliminary Design Form (Provided)
- o Indication of the best location on structure for signage (8.5x11)
- o Indication of where plexiglass will be used
- o Company Logos for the Architect and Contractor Team Members in JPEG Format

AIA Dallas, TEXO, SPCA of Texas, and NorthPark Center reserve the right to decline any design with just cause or reason. Teams will be notified by August 10th of preliminary design review approval.

FINAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All teams must submit a final design package no later than **October 6th at 5pm**. The Final Design Package **MUST** include:

- Completed Final Design Form (Provided)
- Company Logos in JPEG Format for the Architect and Contractor team members
- Photos Of Built Design (Photos may be submitted any time before **November 16th at 5pm**)
 - o One signature photo that best shows the design and construction detailing of your **completed** home. This photo will be displayed as the official photo for your home on the SPCA auction website, the Bark + Build website, and all social media and marketing promotional posts in perpetuity. No late photos will be accepted.
 - o No rendered images of homes will be accepted in place of actual, completed home photos.
 - o All photos must be 1500 pixels by 2100 pixels at 300 ppi.

DEADLINE AND DELIVERY PENALTIES

Teams that do not meet the required deadlines outlined in the competition guidelines or fail to deliver a completed home on the date of delivery, could incur the following penalties:

- **Missed or Late Final Design Submission Deadline:** Due - October 6th
 - o Ineligibility for Design/Build Awards
- **Missed or Late Completed Home Photo Deadline:** Due - November 16th
 - o \$100 Penalty
- **Late or Incomplete Home Delivery to SPCA:** Due - November 19th
 - o \$250 Penalty
- **Withdrawal from Competition after Schematic Design Deadline:**
 - o \$550 Penalty

****Penalty provides for missed fundraising revenue from home/team withdrawals to SPCA of Texas**

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BARK + BUILD AWARDS

Awards will be presented by AIA|TEXO at the Bark + Build Housewarming Party on January 15th - Location TBD

“TOP DOG” AWARD

This is the ‘People’s Choice’ award. The built entry that receives the most votes will be deemed as the “Top Dog”. This award is presented by the SPCA of Texas.

“BEST IN SHOW” AWARD

The “Best in Show” award will be presented as the overall winner of the Bark + Build design/build competition and overall juror’s favorite. This entry will epitomize the best overall design and construction detailing in the pack.

“HOT DOG” AWARD

The “Hot Dog” award will be presented as the overall runner-up to the winner of the Bark + Build design/build competition and as the second-place winner.

“GREEN PAW” AWARD

The “Green Paw” award will be presented at the juror’s discretion to the best overall entry that captures the spirit of sustainable design and construction with clearly recognizable and distinguishable features or materials for the conscientious pet owner!

DESIGN/BUILD CATEGORY AWARDS (5 TOTAL)

Awards will be presented to the team that best embraces the spirit of their respective category:

- Big Dog - Best Big Doghouse Design/Build
- Furr-niture - Best Furniture Home Design/Build
- Playful Pals - Best Play Structure Design/Build
- Teacup Pup - Best Small Doghouse Design/Build
- Cat Condo - Best Cat-Friendly Design/Build

HONORABLE MENTION

At the jury’s discretion.

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BENEFITING



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